



AUSTIN MUSIC COMMISSION MINUTES
Regular Meeting – Monday, February 6, 2012, 6:00 P.M.
Austin City Hall, 301 West 2nd Street, Austin, Texas 78701
Boards and Commissions Room 1101

Commissioners in attendance: Brad Spies, Joah Spearman, Rich Garza, Michael Feferman, Eve McArthur, Heather Wagner Reed, Joe Stallone

Staff in attendance: Don Pitts, Ashley Buchanan

A. CALL TO ORDER

The Commission meeting was unanimously called to order at 6:15 p.m.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting of January 18, 2012 were approved on Spies' motion, McArthur's second, and a unanimous vote.

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

1. **Clay Shorkey**, Texas Music Museum – invited commission to the new exhibit that is focused on East Austin's African-American music history and explores the musical legacies of artists whose contributions help established Austin as a "Live Music Capital of the World".
2. **Clifford Gillard**, Capital View Arts – Invited commission to Capital View Arts' events that celebrate Black History Month.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Appointment of a commission to the Downtown Commission –**
Spearman stated that when Spies was appointed to chair of the Austin Music Commission, the working arrangement was to have a chair serve in a Downtown Commission seat, but now they will have an individual commissioner beyond chair or a group of commissioners serve. Pitts stated the appointment must be approved by Council and the commissioner will need to serve a six-month term. Spearman stated he will volunteer but cannot attend the February meeting, so will bring to Council in March to begin the six-month term. Spearman recommended having a commissioner's six-month term be stated in the Downtown Commission bylaws. Feferman motioned to recommend Spearman to the Downtown Commission; Garza seconded the motion, on a unanimous vote.
2. **Music Venue Assistance Program specifics, discussion and possible action –**

- a) **Specifics:** Spies updated the commission on the specifics that they need to discuss in order to recommend requirements of the program. Spies stated it is a realistic program to use existing funds for the program that will not affect the City budget. Pitts introduces Kevin Johns, Director of EGRSO. Johns stated he wanted to join in on the conversation about growing live music venues downtown at the same time as we're about to experience large amounts of growth. He said he expects there will be a vast increase in people moving downtown and this is the time to development a prototype to show other cities around the world and have them learn from Austin. Johns briefed the commission on Dr. Cliff Bragdon, who knows all of the available technologies to mask sound. Pitts stated that the PowerPoint is specifically focused on the criteria for choosing a venue for the case study. Pitts discussed the Music Venue Relocation Program and Music Venue Assistance Program Resolutions and that there was a friendly amendment that left the financing open until the Staff goes back to Council within 180 days. David Murray discussed sound mitigation and what improvements have been made by previous venues: speakers, utilization of white noise (Corpus Christi venue) and architectural solutions. Pitts stated the Dan Stand was very affective for Cheer Up Charlies. Pitts discussed the proposed criteria for the case study. Spies said he would include: frequency of performances and proximity of residential. Spearman said they should look at a map of development with the number of complaints. Pitts said we are going to create an internal advisory committee to determine venue(s) to participate in the case study, oversee the case study, and subsequently define broader recommendations for the program. Spearman suggested an APD officer be on the committee. Pitts said the plan for the program itself will be presented in July and there will be an internal and external team. Pitts said staff will talk to venues and come back to commission.
- b) **Proposed criteria from commission:** Staff needs to make a determination from the amount of money we have to choose how many venues could improve from \$40k divided up. Pitts said the study will involve at least two solutions that could potentially improve the venues. He discussed Bose – Better Sound Through Research – and mentioned their system is around \$40k. McArthur asks if Bose would team with the City as a sponsor to assist in the creation and/or operation of the program- proofing and marketing. Spies said we have looked for best practices around the world and haven't found them yet, so this could be a way for Bose to be involved in a program that improves sound mitigation at Austin venues. Spies said venue should be venue(s) on PowerPoint and that we should stagger the implementation of

the tactics; first try architecture, then another solution after a week, and measure both. Garza said the biggest issue is we have 180 days to get this done- new development is 4 years away and we have issues right in front of us. Pitts said there is a lot of structural material staff will need to work on and we will come back with 2-5 scenarios for different locations; art, structures, technology, etc. and present them for commission in March with an estimated ballpark cost. Number 5 scenario is important to serve as a filter as well as number 3. Without a lottery type situation, venues should match the money going into the study. Spies said we need to determine the 2-3 venues to get the program funded.

c) **Criteria additions:** Spies said to include: frequency of venues, proximity to residential area and live music only.

3. **Busking discussion and possible action** – Pitts stated there have been several meetings with Downtown Austin Alliance and this could fit in perfectly with them. He said he would like to postpone the discussion until April and staff will come back to the commission with a proposal (i.e. using existing partnerships within the community to have signage for busking zones) There is only one location in CBD that meets requirements for busking in the sound ordinance and we need to work toward busking in designated areas. APD will also be involved. Spearman motioned to postpone the discussion until April; McArthur seconded the motion, on a unanimous vote.
4. **Sound Ordinance Enforcement, discussion and possible action** – Garza said the enforcement happened because it was a tactical campaign – APD executed it, ticketed and moved on. Spies asked if ticketing has increased. Pitts said the list we get from APD for downtown noise violations (for 311 that are transferred to the dispatcher) have significantly dropped over the last few weeks. He discussed that staff created a new Loud Music Service Request for 311; residents are encouraged to dial 311 to voice a loud music complaint to a live operator, 24/7.

E. MEMBER UPDATES

1. **Red River Live Music Heritage District** – Spies said this would begin in February and mentioned the commissioners should all make a phone call to Council Members and see when it is officially going to happen. He said we value our culture and we value what makes us Austin; that is a narrative that people will run with.
2. **Permitting** – Spies said Austin music people organized an open house for people to ask questions about temporary events and the permitting process. Pitts said the review team meetings staff has been conducting consists of representatives from multiple City departments and the applicants have come prepared with all necessary documents and site plans. He said the process is easier when everyone is in the same room and has worked out extremely well for the applicant and for staff.

3. **Arts Commission** – Spearman said in November we passed a resolution joining with the Arts Commission and he is going to coordinate a meeting with the chair or vice chair to determine recommendations for joint items, and then come back to the commission with a meeting date for either this summer or later this year. He said another commissioner from both commissions would be helpful. Feferman offered to volunteer; Reed volunteered as a backup. Johns says there will be festivals happening in November during the F1 opening in Austin and if you're going to get together with the Arts Commission, it would be a great to discuss.

F. STAFF BRIEFINGS

1. **Building Code Standard** – Murray said there have been several meetings about building standards and there are currently no requirements in international building code regarding outdoor sound coming in. For construction of residential buildings in the airport overlay, there are requirements regarding exterior sound coming into the dwellings. It could be possible to adopt some of those requirements in the new building code standard.

G. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

H. ADJOURNMENT

The Commission adjourned at 8:35 p.m. on Feferman's motion, Spies' second, and a unanimous vote.